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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/654,368	09/02/2003	Jon P. St. Germain	161,700-079	4228
34263	7590	06/12/2007		
O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP			EXAMINER	
610 NEWPORT CENTER DRIVE			LEE, YUN HAENG NMN	
17TH FLOOR				
NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3766	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			06/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/654,368	ST. GERMAIN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Yun H. Lee	3766

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 May 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 29,74 and 76-83 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 82 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 29,74,76-81 and 83 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 29, 76 and 79-81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Milder et al. (US Pat. No. 4,902,272).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 74, 77 and 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Milder et al. (US Pat. No. 4,902,272).

Regarding claim 74, it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8.

Regarding claim 77, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use carbon dioxide to inflate the first, second, and third

balloons because Applicant has not disclosed that using carbon dioxide provides and advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to use carbon dioxide to inflate the first, second, and third balloons of Milder et al.

Regarding claim 78, Milder et al. discloses the first, second, and third balloons having a volume of between 5-40 cc (col. 3 lines 9-12). Although this is a broader range than the claimed range of 10-30 cc, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to configure the first, second, and third balloons to have a volume between 10-30 cc since the volume just needs to be enough to sufficiently obstruct the aorta to achieve the purposes of cardiac assistance. The exact volume would be case-specific and dependent on the particular subject aorta size. It has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

5. Claim 83 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Milder et al. (US Pat. No. 4,902,272) in view of Kärcher et al. (US Pat. No. 4,697,574). Milder et al. discloses measuring an electrocardiogram and synchronizing inflation of the balloons with the R wave of the electrocardiogram (col. 3 lines 30-31). Kärcher et al. further teaches, in detail, measuring an electrocardiogram and synchronizing inflation with the R wave of the electrocardiogram, so that maximum inflation occurs at the peak of the T wave, and deflation is timed to occur just before the next QRS complex of the

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electrocardiogram (fig. 1, col. 2 line 63 – col. 3 line 2). Karcher et al. teaches that this is done so as not to interfere with the blood circulation in the aorta and also that this synchronization is very important for the hemodynamic efficiency of the system of circulatory assistance (col. 3 lines 3-9). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to configure the invention of Milder et al. to synchronize inflation with the R wave of the electrocardiogram, so that maximum inflation occurs at the peak of the T wave, and deflation is timed to occur just before the next QRS complex of the electrocardiogram.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yun H. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-2847. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 10-8.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl H. Layno can be reached on (571) 272-4949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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